

ABSTRACT

A method is provided of determining a heat treatment to apply to a structural member so as to modify the deformation behavior of the structural member when subjected to an applied stress. The method includes first simulating the deformation behavior of the structural member when subjected to the applied stress. The effect of at least one heat treatment upon a part of the structural member is then simulated so as to determine a heat treatment to apply to the part of the structural member so as to produce a modified deformation behavior.